

**MINUTES  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**JUNE 29, 2003**

**FIELD TOUR**

**Conservation District Office**

**5820 S. Pecos Road #400, Las Vegas, NV 89120**

The tour consisted of visits to Acacia Demonstration Gardens (City of Henderson), Clark County Wetlands Park, and Gardens of the North Las Vegas Civic Center.

**JUNE 30, 2003**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Clark County Government Center**

**500 Grand Central Parkway, Pueblo Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**Las Vegas, NV 89106**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. on Monday, June 30, 2003, by Commissioner James Settlemeyer. Self-introductions of those present follows:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

James Settlemeyer, Gardnerville  
Sterling Wines, Ely  
Patsy Tomera, Carlin  
Keith Whipple, Hiko  
Judy Currier, Las Vegas  
Dr. Rangesan Narayanan, UNR, College of Agriculture

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Vance Vesco, Winnemucca

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Ann Mori, Division of State Lands  
Pam Wilcox, Administrator, Division of Conservation Districts  
Kelly McGowan, Division of Conservation Districts  
Sandi Gotta, Division of Conservation Districts  
Roger Van Valkenburg, Farm Service Agency  
Richard Orr, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Chris Freeman, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts  
John Hunt, Conservation District of Southern Nevada

## **II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 5, 2003**

Keith Whipple moved to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2003, meetings. Patsy Tomera seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **IV. INTERNAL DIVISION REPORTS**

- A. *Status of the Division of Conservation Districts:*
  - 1. Fiscal Reports – Pamela Wilcox
    - a. Ms. Wilcox gave an update on the budget for fiscal year 2003 and presented the budget for fiscal year 2004.
- B. *Status of the Conservation Districts*
  - 1. Conservation District Meeting Logs – Kelly McGowan
    - a. Mr. McGowan reviewed the meeting logs from the 28 districts. There were three districts for which the division has record of having two of the required three meetings annually – Duck Valley, Mason Valley, and Ruby Valley. However, he confirmed that all three districts had meetings in late June. He expects to receive minutes from them which would keep them in good standing.
  - 2. *General Correspondence* – Kelly McGowan and Sandi Gotta
    - a. Ms. Wilcox introduced Sandi Gotta, the new Management Analyst II in the Division of Conservation Districts. Ms. Gotta has been with the Division for one month and stated that she is enjoying the position and looks forward to working with everyone. Ms. Gotta attended meetings for Vya, Washoe-Storey, Mason Valley, Smith Valley, Owyhee, and Southern Nye.

- b. Mr. McGowan attended the NTCD strategic planning meeting and attended meetings for Jiggs, Esmeralda, Tonopah, Duck Valley, and Owyhee. He participated in a tour sponsored by BASF to see the effectiveness of Plateau in the control of cheat grass. He also attended his first year of Range Camp. He is still involved in the Walker River mediation process and feels they are making some progress.

## V. REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION

- A. *Division of Conservation Districts* – Kelly McGowan and Sandi Gotta  
Covered under IV. B. 1 & 2.
- B. *Department of Conservation and Natural Resources* – Michael Turnipseed
  - 1. Ms. Wilcox spoke on Mr. Turnipseed's behalf. She gave an update on the State's budget.
- C. *Department of Agriculture* – Don Henderson  
Not present.
- D. *University of Nevada, Reno* – Dr. Rangesan Narayanan
  - 1. Dr. Narayanan took a tour along highway 50 through Fallon, Eureka, and Ely and met with the county commissioners, schools and citizens.
  - 2. The Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit annual meeting was held in May.
  - 3. The Rangeland Initiative received appropriations for range research. All the projects will be selected shortly.
  - 4. The Plant Materials Center is still in the proposal stage. They are asking for \$1.5 million for the first year and \$750,000 for annual funding.
- E. *Natural Resources Conservation Service & Resource Conservation & Development* – Richard Orr
  - 1. Livia Marques is the newly appointed NRCS State Conservationist for Nevada.
  - 2. NRCS has received its preliminary 2003 budget of approximately \$2.4 million. Nevada is still approved for the Ag Management Systems Program.
  - 3. The EQIP program retained \$600,000 for Surface and Ground Water Conservation Program.
  - 4. The new wetland preserve project in Ely received \$1.25 million.
  - 5. Preliminary information for next year's budgets will remain about the same for the base conservation operations and an approximate 6% increase in program dollars.
- F. *Farm Service Agency* – Roger Van Valkenburg
  - 1. There is no news on rental rates on conservation reserve program.
  - 2. NRCS and FSA have a joint program called the Grassland Reserve Program. NRCS provides the technical assistance and FSA administers the program. A fact sheet was handed out and can be found on the web at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/GRP03.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/GRP03.htm).
- G. *Nevada Association of Conservation Districts* – Chris Freeman
  - 1. Attended the NACD spring board meeting in Washington DC and participated in their executive board meeting. At the meeting he suggested that NACD look at other places to hold the NACD Annual Meeting in the future as they are pricing most of the membership out of attending. This year the meeting is being held in Hawaii. He also mentioned a need for district employees to receive training on funding methods for districts. He met with elected officials and discussed the Farm Bill, new endangered species legislation (petitioners would bear the cost of listing determination rather than the individual land owner, and not allowing tax payer funds to be used

- by non-government entities to sue the government or others), NRCS office closures, forest health, and 319 funding.
- 2. State Association meeting will be in Virginia City on November 5-6.
- 3. In May districts received information from NACD on the Farm Bill.
- 4. NACD Pacific regional meeting will be held September 7-9 in Colorado Springs.
- 5. NACD is restructuring due to the possible loss of 34% grant funding from NRCS. Some of the budgetary cuts include closing the Regional offices and Capacity Building Services. Ray Ledgerwood and his staff received termination papers as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, however a possible hold has been put on until August 15<sup>th</sup> to reevaluate if there is a chance for funding.
- 6. Mr. Freeman also attended Range Camp and thanked the districts that participated in sending youths to camp.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. *Report and summary of actions taken on Assembly and Senate Bills of interest to Conservation Districts – Pamela Wilcox*
  - 1. Ms. Wilcox presented Senate and Assembly bills of interest to Conservation Districts. This consisted of SB172, SB76, AB193, AB195, AB215, AB301, AB409, and AB488.
- B. *Update and possible action concerning discussions with Nevada Division of Wildlife and the Wildlife Commission concerning compensation for wildlife grazing on private lands – Keith Whipple*
  - 1. Mr. McGowan was instructed to set up a meeting with Keith Whipple, James Settelmeyer and a representative from Wildlife to discuss what course of action could be taken to change the compensation for wildlife grazing. Keith Whipple made the motion to start discussions with Wildlife and Judy Currier seconded. The motion was approved.
- C. *Report on State Attorney General's letter on 'associate members' of a Conservation District, in relation to Clark County District Attorney's opinion and possible direction to the Division of Conservation Districts and/or other action – Pamela Wilcox and Judy Currier*
  - 1. Ms. Wilcox relayed the Attorney General's opinion that districts should not give the title of "associate member" to district volunteers.

## VII. COMMISSION DETERMINATION OF DISTRICT ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS

- A. *Review of status ("good standing") of conservation districts – Staff*
  - 1. Staff recommended that all districts be found to be in good standing.
- B. *Review of conservation district budgets. Determination of compliance of budgets with legal requirements.*
  - 1. **Big Meadow** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.
  - 2. **Carson Valley** – Judy Currier motioned to accept their annual budget. Patsy Tomera seconded. The motion passed.
  - 3. **CD of Southern Nevada** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.

4. **Clover Valley** – Judy Currier moved to table the decision until the budget balanced. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.
5. **Dayton Valley** – Patsy Tomera moved to table the approval of the budget to request a more detailed budget. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.
6. **Duck Valley** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.
7. **Esmeralda County** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget with a note to delete “Noxious Weed Control” from Esmeralda County’s match. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
8. **Eureka** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept their annual budget. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
9. **Jiggs** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.
10. **Lahontan** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
11. **Lamoille** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept their annual budget. Judy Currier seconded. The motion passed.
12. **Lander County** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept their annual budget. Patsy Tomera seconded. The motion passed.
13. **Lincoln County** – Judy Currier motioned to accept their annual budget. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
14. **Mason Valley** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept their annual budget. Patsy Tomera seconded. The motion passed.
15. **Nevada Tahoe** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
16. **Northeast Elko** – Judy Currier moved to table the decision until the budget balances. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.
17. **Owyhee** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept their annual budget. Patsy Tomera seconded. The motion passed.
18. **Paradise-Sonoma** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget with a note to clarify what dues will be paid in the final budget. Judy Currier seconded. The motion passed.
19. **Quinn River** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept their annual budget with a note to clarify what dues will be paid in the final budget. Judy Currier seconded. The motion passed.
20. **Ruby Valley** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept their annual budget. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
21. **Smith Valley** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
22. **Southern Nye County** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept their annual budget. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
23. **Starr Valley** – Keith Whipple motioned to accept the annual budget with a note to clarify equipment expenses in the final budget. Judy Currier seconded. The motion passed.
24. **Stillwater** – Keith Whipple moved to table the decision until the budget balances. Patsy Tomera seconded. The motion passed.
25. **Tonopah** – Keith Whipple moved to table the decision until more information is obtained regarding the office space rental and in-kind services/contributions. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.

26. **Vya** – Judy Carrier moved to table the decision until the budget balances. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.
  27. **Washoe-Storey** – Patsy Tomera moved to table the decision to table the decision until the budget balances. Judy Carrier seconded. The motion passed.
  28. **White Pine** – Patsy Tomera motioned to accept their annual budget. Keith Whipple seconded. The motion passed.
- C. *Designation of conservation districts eligible for commission grants in fiscal year 2004.*
1. The following districts were found to be eligible for commission grants in FY04: Big Meadow, Carson Valley, CD of Southern Nevada, Duck Valley, Esmeralda, Eureka, Jiggs, Lahontan, Lamoille, Lander, Lincoln, Mason Valley, Nevada Tahoe, Owyhee, Paradise-Sonoma, Quinn River, Ruby Valley, Smith Valley, Southern Nye, Starr Valley and White Pine. Keith Whipple motioned to designate these districts as eligible for grants. Sterling Wines seconded. The motion passed.
- D. *Schedule future commission actions relating to district grant program.*
1. The next meeting was scheduled for a telephone conference on Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in Carson City.
  2. Judy Carrier suggested that it would be helpful to see both last year's projected budget as well as the draft financial reports.

#### **VIII. COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

None.

#### **IX. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

A. *Set Time and Place*

1. The next meeting will be a telephone conference held in Carson City on July 24, 2003.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chris Freeman informed the board about his lunchtime telephone conference regarding a TSP (Technical Service Provider) program through NRCS.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Keith Whipple motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sterling Wines seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mori  
Administrative Assistant II